

2018 Executive Director's Welcome

Good day and welcome everyone. Today we acknowledge our dedicated Board of Directors, Advisory Council members and guests for our 2019 installations.

Once again, we have the honor of Town of Hempstead Supervisor: Lauren Gillen to be our installing officer. "A big thank you and round of applause, please!" We are thankful for a good year with our shared collaboration and Town of Hempstead's generous support that has continued to enrich our senior's social and intellectual desire to stay connected and informed. Thank you for your role in enhancing CALE's success to provide fine and vast programs.

We at CALE wish to express our appreciation to all present, as we celebrate 69 years of service to our Center for Adult Life Enrichment community.

In my short time at CALE, I have come to know a community of folks who are generous in spirit and extend extreme goodwill. Starting with our President Richard Braverman, along with our dedicated Board Of Directors, to our committed Advisory Council members, lecturers and all our volunteers. I have become very *fond* of each and every one of you, as I witness your generosity of spirit and fine character that resonates your genuine commitment.

Collectively, the folks at CALE are welcoming to new faces, as they exhibit to us a fellowship amongst their counterparts displaying warm interactions throughout their daily doings. In my short time here, I have found much joy in the membership's overall public relations: from their spirited discussions of social and major topics or current event talks, as they come together to analyze local and world politics of the day, they always display grace and candor as they approach their concerns, while examining the one's our country faces as a whole. I equally enjoy how they take delight in our lectures, as laughter and interesting commentary fills the center. Likewise, our singing group's lovely voices. And when folks volunteer to lead each other in book clubs or exercise programs or take delight in our various yoga and dietary programs that enhance healthy routines; likewise our long standing French, bridge, canasta and mahjong group. all sharing common interests.

Essentially, I can see that there is much talent and heart in our collective creative writing and art programs; just as we all collaborate as a whole by giving of our talents to lead, lend a helping hand, create and explore all that is possible, while honoring our continued practices that have made CALE who it is today. **I look forward to building a strong future with you all.** You are all extraordinary people! I will do my best to continue tradition in the spirit of CALE, as we strive for new beginnings and exciting experiences together with kindred spirits for the longevity of our center and the growth of its participation and programs to come. Let us continue to **inspire each other** and all who enter our doors to make this their home away from home. With much appreciation and gratitude, **I am honored to be your director.**

As we journey through the end of 2018 into the New Year, I hope we will break bread together, laugh together, and prosper together. Happy and Blessed Holidays to All...

I thank you one and all.

Sincerely, *Lee Gerardi*, your new director